
	<i>VCCS ITS</i>	Document #:	VCCS-ITS-08-5100
		Information Technology Policies	Revision: 1.0 Effective Date: Sep. 18, 2008 # Pages: 3


Accessibility Policy

General	<p>This policy is established to support the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) in promoting equal access opportunity to information technology by the application of accessibility standards, guidelines, training, tools and methods consistent with higher education. The aim is to provide this opportunity in a setting that fosters independence and meets the guidelines of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This policy sets forth accessibility standards and guidelines that reflect best practices for achieving the accessibility of information technology for use by persons with disabilities.</p>
Policy Statement	<p>The procurement, development, and/or maintenance of information technology and user support services for persons with disabilities align with accessibility standards specified in Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and in "Web Content Accessibility Guidelines" from the World Wide Web Consortium, appropriately tailored to the specific circumstances of the Virginia Community College System community.</p> <p>Accessibility standards are designed to evolve and change, as newer technologies are introduced and user needs change. At the same time, the standards maintain a consistent framework for accessibility training and support services. VCCS information technology development, maintenance, training and support personnel who are responsible for information technology procurement, programs and services possess an appropriate level of technical knowledge related to accessibility standards for persons with disabilities.</p> <p>An overview of VCCS information technology accessibility strategy for compliance and related resources is provided at: VCCS Accessibility Standard and Practices</p>
Terms	<p>Accessibility: Refers to the VCCS objective that everyone within the VCCS community, regardless of physical disability, will have the opportunity for appropriate access to information technology.</p>
Related Information	<p>U.S. Government – Americans with Disability Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Section 504 standards</p> <p>U.S. Government – the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Section 508 standards</p>

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	<p>The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) is an international organization that develops inter-operable technologies (technologies that can communicate with each other), e.g., specifications, guidelines, software and tools, to lead the Web to its full potential. W3C is a forum of information, commerce, communication and collective understanding. Of particular relevance are the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 Copyright © 1999 W3C (MIT, INRIA, Keio) and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 Copyright © 2005 W3C ® (MIT, ERCIM, Keio), All Rights Reserved. W3C liability, trademark and document use rules apply.</p>
Policy Background	<p>Chapter 945 of the 2005 Session of the General Assembly provided for a significant restructuring of operational authority for Virginia's institutions of higher education (the 2005 Restructuring Act). Additionally, the 2005 Restructuring Act permits Level 1 institutions to enter into a Level 2 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Administration in one or more operational areas. Legislation approved in the 2008 legislative session established eligibility criteria for an institution to be granted additional operational authority in a minimum of two, but not all three, of the following areas: information technology, procurement, and capital outlay. At the May 2008 meeting of the State Board, a resolution was passed indicating that the Virginia Community College System is qualified to be, and should be governed by memoranda of understanding in the areas of capital outlay and information technology, and that authority was provided by the Board to the Chancellor to move forward on activities designed to secure Level 2 authority in the areas of Information Technology and Capital Outlay.</p> <p>The policy statements indicate that the Virginia Community College System has adopted procedures and policies that are in line with existing state and federal code requirements as well as industry best practices appropriately tailored for higher education.</p>
Policy Approval and Revisions	<p>The VCCS State Board adopted the proposed Information Technology policy statements in the areas of accessibility; infrastructure, architecture and operations; project management; and security to fully comply with §2.0 and §5.0 of Chapter 824, 829 of the 2008 Acts of Assembly.</p>

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